THINGS TO COME

JAN. AND FEB. 1955

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB

YOUR JANUARY SELECTION —

PORTALS OF TOMORROW

The Best Tales of Science Fiction and Other Fantasy
Edited by August Derleth—the "Granddaddy" of S-F Anthologists

THE "rave" words about *Portals of Tomorrow* which follow were NOT written by your editors. They are taken from a review, written

(Continued inside)

by J. Francis McComas, which appeared in *The New York Times* Sunday book section:

"August Derleth . . . has collected sixteen of the best of 1953's stories of fantasy. And a superlative sixteen they are. For me, at least, the anthology's strongest virtue is its abundance of humor. Such waggish scribes as R. Bretnor, Fredric Brown, Mildred Clingerman, Murray Leinster, Kris Neville and Mack Reynolds demonstrate that there's plenty of drollery to be found in such usually weighty subjects as cybernetics, space-time continua and—the Devil himself . . . In emphasizing the merriment, I do not wish to overlook more serious ventures out of this world as those assayed in various directions by John Anthony, Arthur C. Clarke, or Clifford D. Simak. These are all wonderful. What I do wish to emphasize is that the imaginative can be fun—fully as often as it may be serious, thought-provoking challenge. And I have a hunch that many will join me in thanking August Derleth for selecting a light-hearted anthology that indisputably makes this point."

Yes, you'll enjoy every story in *Portals of Tomorrow!* The anthology gives you an astonishing "change of pace"—from whimsy and sprightly humor . . . through "O. Henry" surprise endings and sharp-edged satire. August Derleth does not restrict himself to any purist's conception of science fiction. Freely including fantasy as well as s-f, he lets only one thing form the basis of whether or not a story should be included: *its entertainment value.* And when you read about the father who literally *changes places* with his son (Ray Bradbury's *Playground*) . . . how the first men to land on Mars (*Civilized*) make a dreadful anthropological mistake . . . about the amnesia victim upon whose judgment the fate of all humanity depends (*Potential* by Robert Sheckley) . . . the hilarious story (*Gratitude Guaranteed*) of a man who discovers that a giant mechanical brain is "in love" with him—when you read stories like *these,* you'll be glad August Derleth has put together such an entertaining book.

Publisher's edition $3.75 Member's edition $1.00

CONTENTS OF *PORTALS OF TOMORROW:*

1. **The Hypnoglyph**—*John Anthony*
2. **Testament of Andros**—*James Blish*
3. **The Playground**—*Ray Bradbury*
4. **Gratitude Guaranteed**—*R. Bretnor and Kris Neville*
5. **Rustle of Wings**—*Fredric Brown*
6. **The Other Tiger**—*Arthur C. Clarke*
7. **Civilized**—*Mark Clifton and Alex Apostolides*
8. **Stickeney and the Critic**—*Mildred Clingerman*
9. **The Word**—*Mildred Clingerman*
10. **Hermit on Bikini**—*John Langdon*
11. **Jezebel**—*Murray Leinster*
12. **D.P. From Tomorrow**—*Mack Reynolds*
13. **The Altruists**—*Idris Seabright*
14. **Potential**—*Robert Sheckley*
15. **Eye for Inequity**—*T. L. Sherred*
16. **Kindergarten**—*Clifford D. Simak*

YOUR FEBRUARY SELECTION—

Angels and Spaceships

BY FREDRIC BROWN

The 100-mile-long space ship settled in the Arizona desert. From it came a race of beings who were a *mile tall.* And these strange giants paid humanity an incredible kind of insult. They *ignored us completely!*

THE MACY sisters were in the garden, chatting peacefully. "Why is everyone worrying so? They're not *doing* anything to us, are they?" Miss Macy's logic seemed irrefutable. A week had elapsed since the enormous space ship had first darkened the Arizona skies. The thousand-or-so invaders who had emerged had seemed terrifying at first—because of their fantastic height. But the giants hadn't attacked any humans. The opposite was true. *Human beings had been ignored—completely!*

When one of the giants had stepped on a house, there was darkness until the foot went away. A few larger homes had been squashed. Attempts to communicate with the aliens had failed, as had attacks by the army and air force. Shells had exploded "inside" the giants, without doing any damage. Even when attacked, the aliens had paid absolutely no attention to men. It was as though human beings were *INSECTS* . . . too tiny to be worthy of consideration.

"And this," said Miss Macy to her sister," is proof that they don't mean any harm, isn't it?" "I hope so, Amanda," the sister said. "But look what they're doing now."

The bright blue sky was turning misty. A big figure loomed into sight, a tank-like object in his hands from which came clouds of vapor. Rapidly the distance between the sisters and the giant narrowed, until he was almost on top of them. There was an ironic similarity between Amanda Macy, with a bottle of *insecticide* in her hands, and the alien, whose tank was producing billowing clouds of white vapor.

This story called *Pattern* is only one of the 17 fine vignettes and stories in the brand-new book *Angels and Spaceships.* You'll find the distinctive hand of Fredric Brown (author of the previous club selection *The Lights in the Sky Are Stars*) in every story. *Placet Is a Crazy Place* is about a planet that can "eclipse itself twice at the same time, run headlong into itself every forty hours, and then chase itself out of sight." Sounds impossible, you say? Well, not when you understand that Placet makes a *figure-eight* orbit around two dissimilar suns—but let the fantastic details of this strange planet wait 'till you've read the book! Then there's *Etaoin Shrdlu,* the story of a *thinking* linotype machine . . . *The Angelic Angleworm,* a startling story about a fisherman who actually digs up *a worm with wings and a halo* . . . a story called *The Hat Trick,* in which an extra-terrestrial gives away his human disguise by performing an unbelievable parlor trick . . . and many more. *The Yehudi Principle* starts and ends with the statement: "I am going crazy." And you'll feel you *are,* too, when you finish the story, which is an intellectual jig-saw puzzle that's virtually unsolvable!

(Continued on back page)

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Angels and Spaceships is a delightful blending of fun and fantasy. It gives you Fredric Brown at his best . . . which is saying quite a lot, since he is one of the finest craftsmen and most imaginative minds in the field today. Heartily recommended!

Publisher's edition $2.75 Member's edition $1.00

Additional BARGAINS—only $1.00 each

The six full-length, hard-bound books listed below—some previous club selections—are all available (to members only) at $1.00 each, plus 15¢ for shipping and handling. In publishers' editions, the volumes would cost you $2.00 to $3.00 each! It's easy to order as many books as you wish by writing both NUMBER and TITLE on the special card enclosed. *(Please be sure to include your account number.)*

CHILDREN OF WONDER

edited by William Tenn

Here are 21 of the best s-f and fantasy stories in *years*—by authors like Bradbury, Kornbluth, Graham Greene, "Saki," and D. H. Lawrence—all about *extraordinary children!* (557-a)

THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES

by Ray Bradbury

Over 275,000 copies of this modern imaginative classic have been sold since its publication. Bradbury's uncanny way with words, his unusual conception of native Martians, will astonish you! (558-a)

THE MIXED MEN

by A. E. van Vogt

Of the millions of planets in inter-stellar space, *ONE* is inhabited. Your job is to find it. But the inhabitants are using cunningly advanced technology to STOP you. (559-a)

NEEDLE

by Hal Clement

Both the Hunter and the Hunted were creatures who lived within another body. So the Hunter entered the body of a student—and the fantastic chase went on! (560-a)

PLAYER PIANO

by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

Critics compared this superbly entertaining satire on modern technology with Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and Huxley's *Brave New World.* "Truly *adult* science fiction!" (532-a)

THE PUPPET MASTERS

by Robert Heinlein

A mysterious flying saucer has landed in Iowa. From it comes a fantastic new form of life that endangers the existence of *every person in the world.* How can this deadly peril be combatted? (536-a)

If you do not want either or both of these selections, you should notify us within five days and specify the title or titles you do not want to receive. When writing the club, *please give your account number.*

THE SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB, Garden City, N. Y.

LITHO U. S. A.